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FINAL REPORT ON BALANCED GROWTH MEETINGS

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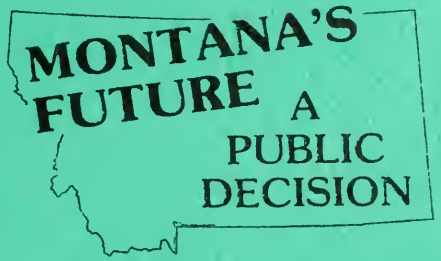
Submitted by

Balanced Growth
Coordinating Committee



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State of Montana
Office of The Governor
Helena 59601

THOMAS L. JUDGE
GOVERNOR

January 31, 1979

Honorable Thomas L. Judge
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Governor Judge:

We are forwarding a report on the Balanced Growth meetings which were held throughout the State last December.

You will note that the report contains some corrections from the preliminary draft submitted by John Barrett. We believe John did a fine job in coordinating this project, and recommend that he receive final payment under the terms of our agreement.

Also enclosed is a statement indicating costs incurred in connection with those public meetings.

Respectively submitted,

Ted Schwinden, Co-chairman
Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee

Ray Dore, Co-chairman
Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee

Enc.
cc: John Barrett

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MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

INTRODUCTION

MONTANA'S
FUTURE
A
PUBLIC
DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The realization that people can truly make a difference has become policy during the six years of the Judge administration. Public Forums, Surveys, Task Forces and an open administration have all contributed to this heightened "democratic" approach to government.

The Citizen Advocate has become a household word in Montana, providing a service long needed by the public - a key to the backdoor of state government.

In the flow of this policy it was only natural that the Governor would turn once more to the people of Montana when an important policy determination was imminent. The future of our state hangs in the balance, so to speak, in the late 1970's. Energy and environment, new business, coal, growing government, burgeoning medical costs, the disappearing family farmer, all have contributed to what many have called the problem of "balancing growth."

Balancing growth in Montana at all levels is mandatory and urgent if we wish to eschew local policies being dictated by exogenous economic forces.

In May of 1978, Governor Judge created the Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee, primarily composed of State Government Department Directors, and charged them with the task of seeking out solutions to state growth problems so that Montanans could have adequate jobs and economic opportunities without the attendant disruption of our cherished environment and quality of life.

The Committee's charge is open-ended and of the highest priority. These public meetings to secure various responses to specific topics in the area of growth are part of the ongoing work being done by the Committee.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

BALANCED

GROWTH

COORDINATING

COMMITTEE

BALANCED GROWTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee was created by Governor Judge in May of 1978 and is chaired by Lt. Governor Ted Schwinden and the Governor's Executive Assistant, Ray Dore. Committee membership is almost exclusively comprised of State Department Directors. The membership of the Committee is delineated in the Appendix of this report.

Phase I of the project called for the study of problem areas in growth, naming those areas, and finally producing work papers with some recommendations for action. Task forces in four major topic areas -- General Government, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, Human Services and Urban/Rural Development -- worked through the Summer and Fall of 1978 and produced preliminary suggestions in numerous topic areas.

The Coordinating Committee determined that Phase II in the Balanced Growth project should be to hold public meetings across the state to secure input on the specified topic areas from the citizens of the state.

To this end, a public meeting coordinator was hired to design, promote and oversee these meetings before the end of the calendar year. John Barrett, who had designed and set up numerous public forums for the Governor in the past, was selected in mid-November to coordinate these meetings.

The information secured during the Phase II process is summarized in this report and will be given to the task forces for their continued study. The final phases of the Balanced Growth mandate include the following:

Phase III	Task Force study of public input in relation to their own work paper recommendations with a goal of firming up specific recommendations to be presented to the Governor.
Phase IV	Executive action by Governor or Legislative recommendations.
Phase V	Continuation with research and public participation related to long-term objectives.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

B A L A N C E D
G R O W T H
M E E T I N G S

BALANCED GROWTH MEETINGS

Balanced Growth meetings were held in 12 cities across the state. Nearly 1,000 Montanans attended these meetings and offered their ideas and suggestions to a panel of task force members.

The format was basically a listening session. Topics were promoted through the media and advertising encouraged public participation. Summaries of the public's contribution to the meetings are contained in the Public Responses section of this report. Following an explanation of the purpose of the meeting, a task force resource person in each of the four topic areas would briefly define the topics and encourage discussion with probing questions and statistical input. Each of the four major topic areas was given roughly one-half hour for discussion. Finally, the Governor, Lt. Governor, or one of the panelists would close the meeting by restating the goals of the balanced growth process and its future direction.

Meetings were held in the following cities:

Helena	December 5	Team A
Glasgow	December 5	Team B
Kalispell	December 6	Team A
Glendive	December 6	Team B
Missoula	December 7	Team A
Miles City	December 7	Team B
Great Falls	December 12	Team A
Butte	December 12	Team B
Havre	December 13	Team A
Lewistown	December 13	Team B
Billings	December 14	Team A
Bozeman	December 14	Team B

Two teams of task force members worked independently to allow meetings on the same day in different locations. Team A consisted of Governor Judge; George Bousliman, Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning; Joan Uda, Special Assistant to the Governor; Gerald Mueller, Administrative Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor; and Bruce Finnie, Administrative Officer in the Office of Commerce and Small Business Development. Team B included Lieutenant Governor Schwinden; John Lopach, Director, Office of Commerce and Small Business Development; Robert Hall, Administrative Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor; Bill Gosnell, Administrator, Department of Administration Personnel Division; and Ottis Hill, Administrative

Assistant to the Governor. Judy Carlson and Ted Doney substituted on several occasions. Schedules of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor did not allow their participation at all meetings and any confusion regarding their absence merits an apology.

With the exception of Glasgow and Glendive, the meetings were not overnight trips. Generally, panelists would leave in the late afternoon from Helena and return before midnight. Panelists would meet periodically with the Coordinator to refine planning and format problems encountered on the road.

The meetings were quite successful in that much public response was secured at a minimal loss of working time by panelists.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

P U B L I C

R E S P O N S E S

PUBLIC RESPONSES

Citizen input included both information gained firsthand at the meetings as well as information from the numerous questionnaires distributed before and at the meetings.

The Coordinator read through the questionnaires and the notes taken by the panelists and summarized them into terse, to the point comments. In summarizing these public comments, he endeavored to catch the "flavor" of the individual's statement.

The responses in this section are listed under the specific topic area to which they were addressed. As most of the questionnaires came in by mail, the Coordinator was unable to determine exactly from where they were coming; therefore, the responses were not categorized by geographic area. The responses are listed under their respective topics in no special order, but simply as received.

The topics included the following:

TOPIC ONE: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CEILING ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Should a ceiling be placed on State Government spending? Should a fixed limit be set or should the limit reflect current economic conditions?

EXECUTIVE SUNSET PROCEDURES: Sunset procedures require legislative review of existing agencies on a regular basis to see if they have outlived their usefulness. Should the Executive Branch of government implement its own Sunset process or should it be left solely in the hands of the Legislature?

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY: Sovereign Immunity protects governments from prosecution for wrongs done to persons or property. State Government currently does not have immunity, except upon a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Should the government, as the people's representative, be given some immunity in specific cases? In which cases? Should legislation be enacted?

CITIZEN INFORMATION CENTER: In what ways can government make itself more accessible to Montanans? Should the Citizen's Advocate number and the State Assistance number be distributed widely throughout Montana, including being listed in every telephone directory in the state? Would a special State Government Telephone Directory be valuable if disseminated across Montana?

TOPIC TWO: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

COAL: "King Coal" is making a comeback. Strong energy development laws now protect Montana's social and natural systems. Do we want in-state conversion of coal to electricity or gas for out-of-state use? Should we encourage the export of coal?

EXPANSION OF STATE LAND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY: Over 5 million acres of land are held in trust by the State. Should we increase the productivity of that trust resource? How can the private sector aid in diversifying the State's agricultural base?

ENERGY FORECASTING: Montana currently relies on energy companies and utilities to forecast our energy needs. Should the State develop a forecasting capability? How should it be funded?

FAMILY FARMS VS. ALIEN OWNERSHIP: Is alien ownership eroding Montana's agricultural base and adversely affecting the family farm? Should aliens be required to report on the extent and usage of their holdings? Should ownership restrictions be imposed? Does alien ownership adequately reflect local concerns in management decisions?

TOPIC THREE: HUMAN SERVICES

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: Moving persons in institutions back to their home communities and keeping them in the communities rather than in institutions has been a policy of this administration. Should this continue? Who benefits? Should we emphasize prevention?

WELFARE ABUSE: Cheating the welfare system is a growing concern. Is fraud widespread? It is possible that this abuse exists not only with the welfare recipient, but also with some who provide services. What can we do about abuses?

HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT: Costs of medical assistance for Montana's aged, disabled and poor are rising faster than the rate of general inflation. How should we control these costs? Should control be aimed at the providers or clients of services? What else could be done?

WELFARE INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAM: If certain welfare recipients were required to do public service work to earn their benefits, would you see this as a training opportunity or punishment for being poor? How can a community help these people to become self supporting?

OPIC FOUR: URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: What new or expanded forms of government-assisted financing are needed? Loan guarantee programs for small businesses? Sources of equity capital? Direct loans? What are the priorities of local governments and businesses?

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: What forms of local government training and information programs from the state are needed? Where should state government concentrate its resources?

BUSINESS LICENSING PROCEDURES: More than 100 separate categories of business licenses and permits are administered by the state and are renewed at various times of the year, requiring numerous inspections and special forms. Should these processes be streamlined if possible? Simplified?

STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: Jobs? Growth? Erosion of tax base? Population decline? Where is the State needed? Where does State responsibility end and local responsibility begin?

Before reading the public responses in this section, it would be advisable to review the topic questions described above first.

Secondly, an attempt was made not to repeat expressions where more than one person said the same thing at a different meeting. For example, many people called for "export only" on the coal issue. Although there were numerous references to this, they were summarized into a single reference. Therefore, if there were 100 summarized comments on an issue, one comment on a specific aspect of that issue would not necessarily represent that 1% of the audience supported that particular view. Conversely, one comment out of 100 may represent 60% of the attendee's views on the topic.

Finally, upon reviewing the full weight of information and comments gathered at these meetings, it can be ascertained that the Governor's policies over the past six years have generally been accepted by Montanans as the right way to go. A certain confidence in government's ability to handle problems pervaded much of the discussion.

COAL:

In-state conversion for in-state use only.
No export only policy.
Conversion for both in and out of state use.
Allow energy development to follow market demands.
Export only with good reclamation laws enforced.
Jobs must come first!
If environmentalists don't give in to limited development soon, the feds will force them to accept that which they feared most: unlimited and unrestrained development.
Keep the coal board and export coal; more plants would polarize impact.
No in-state conversion.
Complete Colstrip 3 and 4.
Ship the coal and let the users convert it.
Ship the coal, it's good for the railroads.
In-state conversion will encourage business investment.
Encourage export of coal to save our short water supply.
How many direct and indirect jobs result from a 250 MSFD Gasification plant AFTER it is built?
Our only sound, long-term economic base of true significance is agricult
In state use of coal continues to add additional property tax burdens to agriculture rather than to relieve this burden. This is an administrative problem.
Use the coal here and bring industry to Montana.
It is cheaper to ship electric energy out than coal.
The state's inability to identify any more than "either/or" alternatives is an outgrowth of their inability to regulate technical problems.
Export only policy would exclude the mining and utilization of lignite coal, which is available to buyers from coal producing states less distant than Montana.
Use what we need and export the rest.
Coal is short term. Renewable sources are the long term answer.
Export it-- out-of-state money will strengthen in-state economy.
More gasification plants.
In-state conversion helps to overcome our "poverty because of space."
Export only because of water problems; eschew boom/bust syndrome; no urgency in removal; and more railroad jobs.
Ease restrictions and convert here.
Leave coal severance tax as it is...or raise it.
What would our state's economy be like if Anaconda Company had been restricted to producing only what Montana could consume?
Do not use our water for this purpose -- in-state conversion.
Some support for coal-fired generating plants in Northeastern Montana.
State should get its moneys worth for the coal.
Some favored dropping the severance tax to 12-15% and then raising it 1% per year.
No slurry lines, our water is too valuable.
Agriculture needs our water, not coal.
Coal and agriculture are possibly incompatible. I doubt that our arid western lands can be reclaimed properly. Burning the coal here only insults Montanans and salts the wounds.
Coal and jobs go together.

COAL continued:

The issue is really growth vs. non-growth; and the problem is really water and social impact.
In-state coversion would increase tax base and add jobs.
It's time the state worked with industry to try to overcome, not obstruct, our search for energy.
Why export coal and import electricity?
We can develop our natural resources and protect our environment simutaneously.
Coal tax monies could be used to offset welfare costs.
Continue the present tax of 30%.
Export coal by railroads.
Save our water.
Do whatever is most cost effective.
We can and should export as well as convert coal.
Develop the coal by all means available.
Siting Act needs revision.
The states of North Dakota and Wyoming are raising their severance taxes.
Appeals on the Siting Act should be limited.
State should get out of Siting business; it belongs to private sector.
Encourage all our mineral development.
State Siting Act is good.
State should study other uses for coal.
Do not export to foreign countries.
State can use severance tax to finish interstate system.
Public needs accurate figures from state on exactly how many jobs will be created exporting coal vs. converting it.
Severance tax on exported timber would help reforestation.
Montana has national and international responsibilities.
Montana should piggyback sale of coal to other countries with our other products.
Set up MHD in economically depressed area; such as Glasgow.
Town of Colstrip is as well organized as any other town.
Utilities predict an energy shortage in 1980's.
Montana's coal should be our trump card. We sell the coal if we can get job supporting trade in other areas.
Ship the grain and coal together. We get clean environment & jobs!
Who decides where jobs are needed and wanted?
Local communities should let government know exactly how many jobs they need. Then state can "horse trade" with Japan, for instance, for coal sales in return for foreign investments in Montana.
Workers from Butte, for example, could be "jetted" daily to Colstrip.
Add value to Montana's coal prior to shipment. Coke, for example.
NO in state conversion. NO encouragement to export. Importers should learn that coal is non-renewable and they must find alternative sources.
Save the environment.
Let's find a happy medium instead of letting the environmentalists dictate this new industry.
Stop being stupid. Use it. It's profitable.
Importers should pay to mitigate adverse effects on our environment.

COAL: continued:

Montana should be divided up into development regions. Butte/Anaconda area should be for heavy industry.
Develop coke industry in Montana.
State needs to go full force towards alternative energy sources.
Let's not get ripped off on our last resource like we were with beaver, copper, gold.
Roundup coal miners live in Roundup and work in Wyoming.
Montana should not become a boiler room for Dixie Lee Ray.
We should hold back on our coal, let the feds "condemn it" when they need it, and then resolve "just compensation" as a jury issue.
There is no alternative realistically--in-state conversion for jobs.
Reduce tax on coal. Be competitive.
Coal development will bring people, and I don't want more people.
Need to develop the coal in Roundup.
General fear of development in Fergis County.
Lower severance tax to regional levels.
Coal gasification plants don't necessarily provide jobs.
No slurry, keep water.
Don't give in to pressures to reduce coal tax; other states will increase soon.
MHD plant in Glasgow.
Burn coal at the mine face, then ship electricity--it's cheaper to those who buy it and we owe it to them.
Preserve Eastern Montana culture by controlling coal development.
Don't make Montana into a California/New Jersey through increased developme
Changes in federal coal leasing procedures - will this hurt Montana coal development policies?
Strong support in Bozeman for DNRC administered programs of alternative energy.

EXPANSION OF STATE LAND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY:

Increase selective logging.
Increase leasing for grazing.
Farmers would like to grow alternative crops, but a lack of knowledge on whether the crop will grow or not and locating markets makes the effort prohibitive.
State could use some of this land for new product experimentation.
Land could be utilized for feed lots/packing plants and for gasohol plants.
A viable way must be found to process agricultural products in Montana.
The land should be used solely for agriculture.
Expand it; the private sector could utilize it much more effectively than the state.
Perhaps to increase leasing fees is a better approach.
State lands should be leased for as much as private lands of similar value.
State lands should be put up for bids with at least 10 year leases.
Previous operator should have right of first refusal.
Sell the majority of it.
Increase productivity: that's what we elected you for.
Increase productivity, yes, but we need water to diversify our agricultural base.
Rare II programs should never be administered on range land in Eastern Montana.
We should increase the productivity of the land.
Let's use our forest lands wisely, not lock them up.
I'd hate to see the state get into ranching, the private sector could do it better.
Stay out of farming, government!
Increasing grazing is how to properly expand the use of the land.
Cattle and wheat: we can't grow peanuts.
Give private enterprise a chance and the State will ultimately benefit.
Why put trust lands into productivity when we already have a surplus?
Private agricultural diversification directions are dictated by cost-benefit relationships of the crop and market. The only real opportunity for diversification of a modern ag enterprise at the present is through technicological advance such as hybrid grains, etc.
The federal government now pays farmers not to produce. What we must become are better traders, so we can export our surpluses.
Sell all but essential state lands to small farmers and ranchers.
Evaluate the land to determine if it is best for agriculture, the forest products industry, or recreation, and then make it available with appropriate controls.
Lease to private individuals,not to corporations.
Timber only.
Keep all lands in trust for future generations.
Allow subdivisions on non-productive land, such as Mt. Helena vs. the valley.
Sell the land and reinvest it.
State should encourage conservation measures on these lands.
Yes, as long as land remains agricultural.
Forced irrigation will jeopardize state school financing.

EXPANSION OF STATE LAND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY continued:

Restrict leases so that monoculture and the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizer in heavy amounts would be controlled.
You increase forest productivity by better forest practices, not by cutting ever more high altitude timber.
Not if it means higher lease costs to ranchers.
Lease small parcels to 4-H experimental organizations.
Encourage development of new agriculturally-related products such as the pilot scale development of biogas from feedlots, ethanol/gasohol from grain, etc.
Make it simpler to utilize this land.
Leave the future a bit of land. Lands in trust should be left in trust.
As long as it doesn't mean inroads into wilderness. Why not experiment on this land: organiculture, beefalo, biological pest control,etc.
Leave the pristine areas alone!

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES: PUBLIC COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

ENERGY FORECASTING:

DNR would ultimately use utility figures anyway, seems like needless duplication.
The state should get involved in forecasting, and pay for it out of coal tax funds.
Utilities need to promote the sale of their product, therefore they must inflate their forecasting needs.
A state agency making forecasts could help us all make rational decisions.
Utilities make their forecasts after encouraging farmers, for example, to convert to an energy intensive sprinkler system rather than his former gravity system.
Utilities cannot be trusted to make fair forecasts.
DNR already knows what they want the forecasts to look like; giving it to them would do no good.
The State could find itself in a possible conflict of interest: they could forecast a need, then have to rule on it.
Use coal taxes to pay for state forecasting.
The utilities already do it.
We cannot be forever at the mercy of the vested interests.
The federal government has been forecasting (inaccurately) the energy problem to death. The state should stay out of it except for the necessary research required by the PSC.
Private industry already have the experts - use them.
We don't need to expand the bureaucracy.
Montana has no critical demand for this service on a local basis.
Only national energy policies and demands and supplies will have an effect on Montana with our small population.
Our energy problems will be due to institutional constraints on supplies and distribution, not true demand.
The state should finance a board of experts to forecast our demand.
Shortages occurred only when government got into picture. Energy companies have been doing a great job for 100 years.
The PSC and the utilities are now supposed to do it. If they can't, eliminate the PSC and replace it with a broader board.
Energy companies doing business in Montana should pay for a state forecasting board.
A small state monitoring agency, with unlimited access to utilities' records, paid for by a special energy tax on receivers of royalties of minerals, should be established.
Yes, if it can be more open and honest than the forecasting of the utilities.
Energy companies look out after their profits, not the well being of the state.
Forecasting is a regional problem, not solely a Montana problem.
State doesn't have the qualified people to do it.
Save a lot of bucks and just audit the utilities' figures.
Our university resource could provide accurate forecasting.
Feds gave away the Kootenai River; we must watch them.
State should contract out the forecasting.
Let the utilities be responsible AND accountable for forecasting.

ENERGY FORECASTING continued:

Politics would influence state forecasting.
We can't trust the utilities to do if fairly.
We cannot allow Bonneville Power to have the only forecasting potential.
To rely on utilities is naive. State should do it and fund it through tax on utility bills.
Avoid duplication.
Wouldn't the state forecasters have to get their info from the utilities
The consumer needs to be assured that energy companies are making the best use of natural resources. State should purchase private energy facilities.
State reviewing utility's data would be a good answer.
Utilities are not going to build expensive plants if the demand is not realistically anticipated. Leave it to them.
Why spend $ on forecasting when the Mt. Power Co. is developing a socioeconomic model of load forecasting for the PSC?
The PSC and the utilities can handle this.
Provide some good technical people to the PSC to do this.
If utilities do it, they can be held accountable.
Just let Randy May be in charge of whatever you do, it doesn't matter who does the work.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES: PUBLIC COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

FAMILY FARMS VS. ALIEN OWNERSHIP:

We must take a look at state and federal inheritance taxes.
Allow alien ownership, but control them.
Registration will do little to stop the problem.
Difficult to control who sells what to whom.
Request exemption of state lands from federal farm acts.
Retain U.S. ownership.
We need more information on problem.
It's a national problem, recycling "petro-dollars." The Saudis, for example, need to reinvest their revenues abroad. The question must be examined, and soon.
The Japanese buy grain at $3 per bushel here and sell it to processors at $6 a bushel.
Family farm in terrible shape. Must buy at retail and sell at wholesale. No profit in it.
Family farmland is going out of production.
Government should specify "concentrated people areas" to secure agricultural land for the future.
This is not really a problem.
The real problem is inflation. The government is taking too much of the GNP.
Alien ownership is not yet a problem in Montana, but should be studied.
Offer tax preference to farmers pledged to remain on the farm for a given period of years.
Absentee ownership has little benefit for the local community.
We should study Mexican laws which permit only a 49% alien ownership with a citizen owning 51%.
We need their enterprise. We have enterprises all over the world. It's a two way street.
Corporate ownership is OK, but Canadian land purchases here should be looked at.
A Family Farm Act is socialistic and an undue restriction on the right of private ownership.
Is the state being purchased by foreigners?
Alien ownership should be closely monitored and Montana farmers given preference in leasing opportunities.
Farmers have a right to sell to whomever they want to.
Aliens should report on holdings, but nothing more.
Corporate tendencies need to be controlled.
Alien ownership should be prohibited.
Absentee and/or corporate owners should be restricted, and the inheritance tax studied as it puts young farmers out of business.
Through taxes, the government can make the alien buyer feel unwanted.
They should be made to report their holdings. Restrict them.
Alien ownership is a symptom, not a cause. Family farms are dying due to high capital requirements, tax structures and decreasing productivity.
The agricultural base will continue to shift to corporate ownership, alien or otherwise, if current policies are continued.
Farmer could contract with state "forever" to get special tax rates.

FAMILY FARMS VS. ALIEN OWNERSHIP continued:

If farmers got decent cattle and wheat prices they wouldn't have to sell out.
No foreign ownership! It's a real threat to future of America.
Speculation, more than alien ownership, is eroding the family farming operation. Speculation drives up land costs, values, and inheritance taxes.
Foreign owned products should be subject to the same taxes as Montana's producers.
We've had alien ownership, one way or another, since Montana was a territory. No big deal.
Usage should be reported.
Freeze alien purchases in Montana.
The real problem is out-of-state purchases by agri-businesses for short-term profits or tax dodges.
We own land all over the world. It's a two-way street.
California or Texas ownership of our land is just as "alien" and damaging to the family farm and local interests.
OK if they reside here.
The federal government is the biggest "alien" owner of land in Montana.
The Burlington Northern holds the largest coal holdings with maybe 33,000,000 acres.
Do alien owners have any unfair advantages? If so, correct them.
Nothing can save the anachronistic family farm.
Do"local concerns" reflect other state or national policies or priorities
Here is where the state can finally regulate with clear vision.
If tax, export and all other laws governing agriculture are applied uniformly, there's no objection here.
Aliens can't take it with them. Why worry about it?
Place restrictions on them. The land is for the future generations.
Consider an absentee owner tax.
Farmers have been getting help from feds in the form of low interest loar (as low as 3%) but a small business has to be a disaster area before they will help.

STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:

The state should provide the proper climate for development.
Tax incentives to bring industry to Montana.
Cut red tape for new businesses.
Encourage small industry that does not pollute.
This "soak the rich" syndrome is hurting Montana's economic base.
Stimulate jobs and growth and population decline and tax base will take care of themselves.
Promote non-polluting industries.
Until we can take care of our own, the state should foster development of all our resources.
Jobs will keep young people here.
State should protect business from undue restrictions.
Remove "no growth" proponents from state government.
Local control.
Abolish the Old West Trails organization!
No rape and scrape, boom and bust! State must protect us.
Jobs should not change Montana's identity as a relatively pristine and untouched wilderness. We need some of that too in America.
Jobs? Why don't we encourage the farmer and rancher in Montana more?
Agriculture is the answer over the long run.
Controlled growth.
State should not solicit new business.
Need better quality development decisions at the local level.
As in North Dakota, communities need incentives to encourage development.
Montana needs a right to work law.
"You damn well shoved that stupid 55 MPH speed limit down our throats, now you can damn well help us on all this too!"
Process and market local products in Montana.
State should provide expertise and loans to small, renewable resource industries.
Save the railroads.
Tax structure more important than rates; tax incentives are needed.
State should be involved in interstate activity, not intrastate.
Low or no cost technical assistance when requested.
Promotion of development with less interference would be a "hell of a start".
Montana has too many counties, cut them back and save bucks.
We need to increase the tax base, and the only way is with new business.
State should not compete with the private sector in business.
At present more people are riding the wagon than pushing it. We need dollars for enterprise investment rather than public services.
Montana is experiencing in-migration in the 70's. Growth is rapid in some areas and slower in others. This should be studied more.
State, especially DNR, should try to "find" not "impose" solutions in the siting process.
Jobs will be created by the free market system, not government.
Let growth happen naturally at its own pace; let's not recruit it.
State needs to increase subdivision regulations.
Better transportation would attract more business.
Reduce severance tax because oil is worthless in the ground.
We must protect our lifestyle!
Holding up Colstrip 3 and 4 has cost Montanans many jobs.
Clean air and water means light clean industry.
Arts are clean real industries.

STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES continued:

In Eastern Montana, roughly half the people favor increased economic development over decreased development.
Save the Milwaukee Road!
State should be concerned about kinds of businesses in state; producers versus retailers.
Dependency upon industries that utilize summer-only employment lead to heavy unemployment in winter.
We can diversify within primary industries.
Worry over Anaconda Aluminum suit.
State could help reduce shipping rates to attract manufacturing firms.
Moratorium on certain abatement equipment until plant up and running.
Commerce Office should be increased greatly.
Too much regulatory harrassment of small businesses.
State is not together philosophically: some agencies support growth while others resist it.
Agencies are there not just to regulate, but to assist.
Regulatory laws are written to appear punitive, and are therefore interpreted that way by agencies.
State should attack the transportation problem.
The environment is much more important in the long run.
Why should government assume that jobs and growth should increase; perhaps they should not.
Industrial growth should be subject to EIS's and strong regulations as to pollution.
We need more manufacturing of our natural resources here in Montana.
Local employment offices should advertize in papers. This would increase their effectiveness in job-finding.
Siting Act should have a time limit.
Small communities do not know what questions to ask Commerce office.
We are suffering from a "brain drain" due to no industrial challenges.
Do local communities really want to grow?
If you have to ask the question about where the state fits in, you're not doing your jobs.
Stabilize growth rate in Montana, don't promote it.
Valley Credit Union in Billings held up because hearing postponed. They want temporary order to open building.
Eddy's bread is a monopoly. Need to review industrial development.
Importing beef to Montana is ridiculous. Slaughter it here.
Assemble a conference of builders, realtors, lenders on problems in housi

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

BUSINESS LICENSING PROCEDURES:

Can we just use common sense?
Streamline the process? For goodness sakes, yes!
Streamlining sounds good, however those who do it must truly understand the profession involved.
Too much runaround now; licensing agencies should coordinate better.
Simplify it.
A centralized licensing procedure would benefit everyone.
Paperwork is becoming a real business expense, cut it.
More important is to have a continuing review process of need for licenses.
Professions view themselves as unique, so combined licensing is difficult.
One license, one fee, period!
What we need are more and lengthier licenses. (Only joking. Editor)
Streamline, but do not weaken the process.
Eliminate those that are really just revenue sources.
Entirely too many forms, inspections and red tape.
Inspections should give value received for value paid and be directed toward public safety.
Licensing should be for protection.
Licensing is too expensive for the individual; license for 3 or 4 years.
A Governor's directive requiring all licensing agencies to publish their specific requirements in a condensed document would easily address this labyrinth.
The private sector, perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, could help new businesses with their licenses.
Retain Board of R.E. with experienced brokers appointed.
One all inclusive state license and one all inclusive local license.
Eliminate duplication.
Licenses are all due at different times.
People don't know what to do or where to start in licensing jungle.
The hardest part of a business sale is the license transfer.
Accountants should not be deregulated as recommended by Legislature sunset.
Deregulation not altogether a good idea.
A small tobacconist should not have to pay for the same type of business license as a lumber mill.
After socialism, it is only one small step to communism.

Ma and Pa permits, and for more than one year.

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

State should provide technical assistance to improve local planning and local subdivision regulations.
State helps local governments too much.
State inflicts costs on local governments (i.e., uniform accounting systems are not good for local governments).
DCA community profile data too old.
Surveyors have problems with Highway Dept. in coordination.
Local solutions may be much better than State's.
GB= what if state set building standards and locals enforce them?
State takes 5% of recreation funds to pass application on to feds. What
Help in the areas of law enforcement, legal opinions and specialized laboratories should cover most local needs.
State should encourage local government charters then stay out of the wa
State services should be more publicized.
State should provide training for locals.
Eliminate laws on books that are not implemented.
It's a two-way street. More coordination and communication is needed.
Only in areas such as tax assessment, where we need uniformity county to county.
More training sessions and function "open houses" would educate locals to services available and upgrade local planning, etc.
State support in assistance for abortions, birth control and the Vo-Tech program is needed.
One layer of government should not regulate another. State's role should be educational only.
State should deregulate, spend less to give more bucks to local gov'ts.
Ask for uniformity when state funds are requested so that evaluations can be made.
Locals need training in how to write grants and how to assess local human service needs.
Those local areas impacted with rapid growth need much technical assista
Eastern Montana needs a Vocational Education Center.
Skip it and reduce spending.
Local governments need help in streamlining local bookkeeping and finance management.
Educate locals to exactly what services are available.
Information only with no strings attached.
Why should state get into training? University system can do it.
Training in land use planning, financial management.
Strengthen DCA's accounting assistance.
State should help in areas of child abuse and neglect and delinquency prevention.
Simplify requirements for assistance.
Give local governments flexibility to contract with other agencies.
Local governments need educational assistance on state regulations.
State should have a pool of resource people available at all times.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS continued:

Need state assistance in recycling solid waste and renewable energy grants.
Management training for Clerks/Recorders, Planners, Commissioners, etc.
Televise sessions of Legislature; a subscription state newspaper.
Is there any way to train county commissioners? I doubt it.

FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

State should work with banking community to heighten expertise.
Laws should be amended to allow all types of financial institutions to operate in Montana.
All laws relative to certificates of converience and public necessity be repealed. Capital and auditing requirements should be retained.
State should not get into financing unless as a last resort.
Why loan to small business and not small farmer?
More industrial revenue bonds.
Only if other financing is unavailable.
Banks have not been cooperating in supporting small businesses. Commerc Dept. offers seed money, but businesses cannot get additional loans.
Plenty of assistance programs are available now, if one can outlive the red tape.
State should set up program like the SBA.
Private financing works the best.
North Dakota has a state bank.
Don't burden the taxpayers with an inexperienced new state bureaucracy and loan failures.
Should state get into banking business? Should it support marginally financial business ventures?
A state bank would be useful.
Small business needs no new programs.
Encourage private sector financing; government guaranteeing small busine is too risky for taxpayer's money.
Need right to work law to entice industry.
Look into Bank of North Dakota.
Low interest loans for small businesses from the state? yes.
Agriculture needs state financial assistance.
Public Utility Districts must be legislated, including low interest loans for building of renewable energy sources, insulation of houses, conservation, retrofitting.
More efficient use of non-renewable energy development (i.e., Colstrip plants are only 30% efficient; new European technology of suspending the coal in an inert substance like ceramics is 70% efficient.)
SBA is good enough.
SBA is a disaster, so keep out of such financing.
Government has no right to use taxes to support business.
Tax incentives yes, direct loans no.
Generally risky; however loans to young or new farmers are needed.
The state housing program is good and should be expanded.
Governments could issue low interest bonds and assist currently operating business and industry for expansion.
Commerce's 502 loan program is only a drop in the bucket. Need a state development corporation for small business.
High national statistics on small business failures require state sponsc workshops dealing with accounting, personnel, financing, marketing, e
Majority of Montana businesses are small. They should be aided. It is better to "fertilize" already existing businesses than to "plant" new businesses.
State should be cautious about supplying venture capital.
Coal Severance Tax could be used in broader public investment areas.
Why should state take loan risks that banks wouldn't touch?

FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Our real hope is to finance and encourage a diversified mini-industrial situation.

Cheaper interest rates.

State subsidies should be given to make small business at least as attractive as state/federal subsidies now promote large business (i.e. see Battelle Report on large energy subsidies).

Have you ever tried to borrow money from the state investment board? Nearly impossible even with impeccable personal and business credit.

Champion's holdings in Missoula are a serious threat. Avoid a future "company town."

A plain fact that a Kraft paper mill does not belong in a valley the size and shape of the Missoula valley; get rid of it.

State could help finance pollution devices for industry.

How about marketing help for artists? Develop the "cottage industries".

Start a capital-intensive business and sell it out to investors as an on-going concern: like cattle processing, trout farm/processing, aircraft maintenance, Montana Magazine.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING LIMITATION:

Ceiling would encourage Legislature to spend that amount each year. Perhaps only if tied to some economic indicator.
Yes, a low ceiling.
Spend only what we collect in taxes.
Who needs ballet? We don't need the Arts Program.
Yes, as long as there is a ceiling on government employee salaries.
No tax on inflation.
A ceiling is good as long as it reflects the rise in income.
Mandatory balanced budget.
No deficit spending.
Good headlines but poor public administration. Government should be frug but not box itself in like this. A ceiling is just cheap politics.
Tie expenditures to income growth.
Inflationary taxation without representation is obnoxious.
Index the personal income tax.
How successful has the Legislature been? The army of auditors hasn't done anything to this date.
A ceiling should be established on the basis of a percentage of the gros state product in the private sector using a combination of property and income tax.
A ceiling would be too limiting.
Population growth should be a factor in any ceiling.
Limit the number of government employees to a percentage of the state's population. Excess revenue should be returned proportionately to those who paid it.
Legislators are elected to place a ceiling every biennium. Let them be responsible for their actions; they can be replaced.
Fixed limit - yes.
Ceiling should not increase with revenues.
If ceiling is adjusted yearly, it adds to inflation and isn't really a ceiling.
No ceiling!
The new Constitution mandated a balanced budget, let's keep it that way!
Local government spending is the real problem; that is the property tax t
Yes, if done in the format of annual sessions.
The new tax relief passed in Idaho has great merit. Look at it.
Yes, and some of the Coal Tax money could reduce school taxes.
Yes, stop the politicians from using taxes to buy election votes.
Reinstate part of Arts Council budget. Quality of life affected.
Should be limit; bureaucracy creates a momentum of need between sessions
Tax limit as well as spending limit.
Will state spending ceiling place an unnecessary burden on local gov'ts?
Reduce size of Legislature.
Government spending about right for majority of attendees.
How would ceiling effect local governments?
Homestead Relief should be offered again.
Majority in Billings favor property tax relief over income tax relief.
State should fund public libraries.

STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING LIMITATION:

Go slowly and wisely, but spend where necessary.
YES.
A sales tax would help get enough revenue.
Why should a state be a reflection of over spending by the feds?
Nothing more than political hay. Spending is what government is supposed to do.
Balance the budget, that's all.
People aren't concerned with the level of government spending but with the waste. If they're justified, we want to fund them adequately.
Vehicle taxes are unfair and unequally applied.

Homestead tax relief is stupid waste of money.
Limit spending to a % of average gross state product for the past 5 years.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUNSET PROCEDURES:

This is a budgetary responsibility of Executive branch. If state does its job, no need for sunset laws.
The Executive branch should implement its own sunset process.
The responsibility should be shared by both brances of government.
Executive branch is in a better position to scrutinize agencies under it
Leave it to the Legislature.
Perhaps an agency will spend all of its time justifying itself rather than doing its job.
Perhaps a select committee appointed by the Legislature could do the job
A review every two years via the budget process is too long to wait.
Isn't this already being done?
The process should include all levels and agencies of government who have authority; however, the Legislature must have final say.
How can the public directly get involved in this process?
Few agencies have been sunsetted thus far. Why bother then?
The best sunset is a cut budget.
Procedures could be initiated by both branches and approved by Legislatu
How about if everybody "sunsets" each other?
Executive branch should clean its own house, but advertising it; good votes besides.
If a new program is started, an old one should be eliminated.
Fatuous hope in either case.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:

Government shouldn't be given that immunity, but Legislature might establish threshold limits and remove damages for pain and suffering.
Do the costs mandate reassessment?
State should have immunity.
Local governments need immunity, especially those funded by set mill levies.
The pre-1972 immunity worked very well.
Immunity should be given except in cases of gross neglect and criminal acts.
Presidents are no longer above the law. Leave it as it is.
We'll go bankrupt if we don't have partial immunity.
Relieve government from suits over facilities that taxpayers don't want to improve.
Yes, except in cases of personal damage.
State must be held accountable.
Government should live by the same rules it forces on the people -- no.
No problem if the state hires responsible people, and if they are "retired" if they bring on a suit against the state.
The possibility of people suing the state for highway accidents is frightening.
Counties are losing money due to sovereign immunity.
Only if it's immunity from coal company law suits.
Irresponsible government? You've got to be kidding!
Immunity in auto cases.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

CITIZEN INFORMATION CENTER:

Public needs government "trade journal" of sorts to exchange views of important issues.
How would a new condensed directory really differ from current one?
Publish the number in all local directories.
A special directory of important agencies that deal with the public, as well as a brief description of their mandates.
List the toll free Citizen Advocate number in all directories.
The present situation is adequate.
Government is already too accessible to the public.
Widespread dissemination of Citizen Advocate number may create expectations that cannot be fulfilled with the current budget and administrative capabilities.
Special directory could be placed in specific locations in each community
Citizens are now generally lost in a maze unless they know exactly who they wish to speak to and why.
Questionnaires should be made available across the state at specific local offices to allow citizen written as well as telephoned communica with their officials.
Periodic meetings should be held by state representative (Citizen Advocat to hear complaints, etc. These could be patterned after the Governor's Forums, but much more low key and low level.
Citizen Advocate does a great job.
Meetings should be held in localities outside Helena whenever possible. Also, they should be scheduled for weekends and after work hours so that public can attend these "regular" sessions.
People know how to reach the Governor's Office if they really want to.
Legislators should be advocates for the citizenry.
I question the whole idea of "government getting closer to the people," I would rather they get off my back.
Citizen's Advocate service is very expensive and not needed. Cut it.
Just dial the operator and ask for whom you want. It's easy.
Forget it.
Information Assistance number should be promoted. (Citizen Advocate PR value already achieved.)
Great program if Governor's Office follows up.
Balanced Growth questionnaire should be published in newspapers.
Do local government agencies get copy of current state phone book?
Make quasi-ombudsmen (referral agents) out of Montana Highway Patrol.
Use Gazette (Billings) emergency number listings.
These kinds of meetings are great and Citizen Advocate should participate

HUMAN RESOURCES: PUBLIC COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION:

State has seen some good as well as bad things relating to the Developmentally Disabled (DD).
Many so-called Juvenile Delinquents are DDs.
Public school systems generally ignore DDs.
More money should be spent on prevention vs. treatment.
4 Cs is a wonderful program. Needs more money.
Special Ed teachers in public school systems could help DDs in local group homes.
The policy of "mainstreaming," or moving DDs who are educable into "normal" schools does not always work because the teachers haven't the time to devote to the DDs.
There is concern in the Flathead over Judge Blair's order.
Funds should follow the DDs into the communities.
There are fixed "basic" costs that cannot be lowered at institutions.
Too many agencies are now involved in DD, including SRS, DofI, OSPI.
Problem of educating DDs from 0 to 21.
Montana one of few states which provides 100% of DD funding.
Unfair to have a "money follows DDs into community" policy because of fixed costs.
Several were against deinstitutionalism altogether.
Do deinstitutionalized DDs have the same rights as institutionalized? Their rights are now not clear. Are they getting less now?
Are we "abandoning" DDs by sending them away from centralized care and into neighborhoods where care is less regulated?
Deinstitutionalization is good, but we must recognize the need for centralized care.
Deinstitutionalization should occur before patient has been "institutionalized" to the extent of being totally dependant upon the system.
Communities are not ready to receive "these kinds of people."
Deinstitutionalization should be discontinued.
Deinstitutionalization saves money and benefits patients-great!
Deinstitutionalization should be professionally reevaluated both economically and for its psychological effects on recipients.
Institutions can offer "specialized" services that cannot be found on the local level.
Eastern Montanans need a small inpatient psychiatric facility.
DDs in our communities will make us more humane and aware of the problem.
Need more group homes, waiting lists are too long.
Deinstitutionalization is one of the answers to the age-old problem of institutionizing people who need a different kind of care; and then, because they are institutionalized they become severely damaged.
DDs in the community reduce government involvement, and that is good.
Family members can participate more in the treatment if a DD is near home.
Deinstitutionalization should not include the penal system.
Will local governments be required to "foot the bill?"
A single large home in the communities rather than many group homes better.
Courts should "force" deinstitutionalization.

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: continued:

Many times a group home or nursing home are as restrictive as the original institution.
Majority disfavored deinstitutionalizing prisoners 6 months before their term was up.
Careful selection of local supervisors important.
It should continue, but carefully. "I've seen a lot of funny looking people on the streets lately and it makes me nervous."
Hopefully state is monitoring care, treatment and effect on these people.
Nursing homes should be tightly regulated.
This program is political, and has caused much grief to families and homes.
Many younger children are not receiving proper care in group homes; no systematic schedule for meals, etc.
Need more support for the talented and gifted 1-5% of the children in Montana. School curriculae don't meet their needs.
A fine idea if good support services are maintained in the community.
Need to educate the public to the needs of the deinstitutionalized perso
How much effort is being put into educating people re: compassion for institutionalized persons?
Need to review policy direction of deinstitutionalization of convicts.

HUMAN SERVICES: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

WELFARE ABUSE:

Welfare was "invented" by the rich. "Cheating" = job security to providers.
Welfare laws are too permissive.
SRS people are not responsive to suggestions on how system could be changed.
Fraud is the fault of system employees.
Welfare systems employees need training on how to uniformly implement these programs.
Too many think they have it coming. Make them work when they ask for benefits.
Are welfare bucks getting through the bureaucracy to the needy?
It should not pay more to be on welfare than to work a job.
We need to balance the need to discover "cheaters" and the need to protect and not humiliate those who truly need the service.
Cheating is widespread.
Agencies should work harder to find fraud. Tighten the system.
Welfare is a necessary and basically humane service we must keep.
20 years on welfare is absurd. The system is not functioning properly.
Eligibility requirements should be made stiffer.
Reduce recipients.
Stiffen penalties for offenders.
We in Custer County have little fraud. We investigate claims well and prevent fraud.
About 30% of the 7 million dollars spent monthly is obtained fraudulently.
New laws to discourage fraud.
Government investigations are more obvious; much better than 5 years ago.
Welfare cheating costs us much less than business cheating.
Bad publicity is widespread, not welfare fraud.
Abuse is inherent in the system.
Doctors and Nursing Homes are the real abusers. Let's investigate them.
Few abuse welfare; however, government wastes $$ on paperwork designed to "prove" the need for welfare. The current system is really only a "bandaid" effect - it treats the effect rather than the cause.
The % of abusers is exaggerated and exploited.
Utah has an excellent system that does not "reward" the non- worker.
Unemployment, Soc. Sec., etc., are destroying incentive and contributing to a "welfare" society syndrome.
Should verify user's financial condition; "declaratory" system inadequate to eschew fraud.
State should stimulate employment and decrease benefits.
Please do not throw out the baby with the bath water. Many people have over-active imaginations about low-income thieves. Most on welfare need it.
Welfare should not be a profession.
Fraud is inherent to our system. To eliminate it you must change the system.
Mandatory sterilization for re-occurring welfare recipients who have no ambition or visible means of support.
Those who qualify should not have to wait too long for it.
College students are big abusers.
Social workers try to "fill their portfolios" by encouraging people onto welfare.

HUMAN SERVICES: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT:

In the larger communities, state clinics could be established for the charity out-patients.
Set ceilings on fee schedules.
Avoid duplication of federal programs.
Insurance companies should fight to keep medical costs down.
Control the providers of medical care.
Monitor doctors' surgery recommendations with second opinions periodical
Lower federal and state standards for hospitals.
Freeze hospital and doctor costs.
Avoid state controls at all costs.
Anti-trust action against the AMA and the pharmaceutical industries.
Clamp down on unnecessary medical services to medicaid and insured patients.
Eyeglasses, dentures, physical therapy are necessary to fixed income recipients & should not be cut. Are we moving backward once again to where the people in nursing homes, etc., vegetate?
More emphasis on recruitment of foster homes and group homes for the age
Control doctors' abuse of the system.
Develop more health maintaining organizations to prevent disease.
Better promotion of dietary and nutritional programs.
State Medical Assistance claims are always for the full amount or more.
We need national health insurance. Let's look at Canada's plan.
More competition for services; i.e., advertising for doctors, hospitals.
Reduce coverage and require total indigents to work out their share.
Providers pioneered this state when insurance was a Colt 45, we owe them whatever it costs.
Do not allow insurance companies to write off investment losses and cove them by raising premiums.
We cannot control costs when we have to raise rates to cover "ripple" effect of constantly rising minimum wage.
Ansilar exogenous care has increased, families should be given more responsibility.
Government intervention and control has caused the whole problem.
Make the costs competitive.
Control provider and user more effectively and cut amount of services.
Do not increase social security taxes; perhaps we must go to government subsidy and public health insurance.
How long will we allow "socialism for the rich?" Providers like the bucks coming in, they'd better accept state control of rates.
Public education is essential.
Limit reimbursement or better yet, directly control providers' charges as in the recently defeated North Dakota referendum.
Costs would decrease if we limited malpractice suits. We could revoke o suspend licenses rather than have unlimited liability facing doctors.
We need more doctors and less government rules and regulations.
Regulate the rates of the "blues" (blue cross and blue shield).
Let everyone take care of themselves.
Are people in New York entitled to better care than Montanans?
Second medical opinions, if required, lower costs.
Alcoholism being named a disease has caused local county medical expendi to go up considerably.
Provider cost are out of control.

HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT continued:

Use home care more. Provide home visitations by nurses.
You'll never solve this problem, because our MDs don't really care for the plight of the elderly.
Control those costs at all costs.
Get those damned doctors!
Could we finance paramedic services to free us from those doctors.
People with "fully paid" health plans abuse the system.
Control inflation and you got it.
Stop them!
Overbuilt facilities in hospitals inflate costs.
Socialized medicine.
Investigate doctors with outrageous billing practices.
"Meals on Wheels" program great. Keeps elderly out of hospitals with good nutritional care; saves us bucks in the end.
Are state and federal agencies usurping human service functions that should be handled by charities?
Allow 2 to 3 consultations before authorizing procedures or therapy for non-emergency conditions.

WELFARE INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAM:

Many people are too proud to get welfare; they need jobs and training.
The few that are able to work should be required to work.
Mothers with large families should be excluded from working.
We can help people break out of the welfare cycle but not at the expense of day care, foster care, child abuse/neglect and other services.
Sliding Scale Day Care provided good incentive to working poor and ADC people trying to get off welfare, but program is cut.
Sounds good if employment is available and not degrading.
Benefits should be earned and is an opportunity.
If training is "real" and not "stoop labor."
If they're working,, what about child care?
No one should get something for nothing.
Tax incentives could put this responsibility for jobs back in the private sector where it belongs. Proper planning could propel this integrated work program with an even smaller investment by the public
A work program should be mandatory, with exceptions, before food stamps or unemployment are given.
Welfare recipients should have been out shoveling snow in Helena this we
Welfare work programs could lead to good jobs.
Welfare integrated work program? No thank you, Ronald Reagan.
First training, then employment; not employment as training or it is punishment.
After raising a generation that thinks the government owes them a living I can't believe you want them to earn it. HOORAH!
Work: let's not reward the drinkers and loafers.
Our country and roadsides need cleaning up.
Training programs such as the Family Training Center are great for making people self-supporting.
Make them work for benefits, yes, but then let's make sure we pay them at least minimum wage -- we may have to raise their benefits.
Great, but where are the jobs?
Let's set up training centers such as VIP.
I know lots of people who work for 6 months then collect unemployment for 6 months and ski without ever looking for work. What about them?
Jobs must be meaningful.
Most people on welfare are not able-bodied. Many are young women with children. WIN program is good, but trains them for low-paying jobs.
Don't cut down on their benefits after they're been "trained" and found a job. Real dignity comes with self-sufficiency.
There are less who are able to work than you think.
Remember the CCC camps; public works jobs are readily available.
Jobs and education will stop the welfare syndrome.
The able-bodied could be channeled into the faltering Vo-Tech system.
Work program? Added expense, little benefit.
Can these jobs lead to permanent employment?
Mowing lawns? Cleaning sinks? Is this "training?" WIN grads are require to take whatever job comes up, even if it's not in their training are
We have poisoned ourselves that "stoop labor" is degrading.
High union wage standards would prevent welfare "laborers" from entering many jobs.
How many "able-bodied people" are on welfare? We need stats.
Should seek out more labor-intensive support services to aid this progra

WELFARE INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAM continued:

It could go either way: work camps or real opportunity.
Sounds like FDR's "New Deal." Just because it worked then, doesn't mean it'll work now. Receiving welfare is degrading enough, let's not force our poor to do meaningless jobs, like scrubbing sidewalks.
Would encourage actual job seeking by former welfare check cashers.
Need incentives for businesses to hire welfare supported individuals.
Education is the key. Usual "work" programs offer no real training.
Cities/counties should submit a list of jobs they need done.
Our economy has never provided enough jobs in peacetime even for those looking for and deserving work. The system requires hard unemployment.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

T H E
F U T U R E
O F
B A L A N C E D
G R O W T H

FUTURE OF BALANCED GROWTH

The Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee has just completed Phase II of its charge from the Governor. The public responses, itemized in another section of this report, will provide adequate fuel to stoke the Committee's task forces over the next few months.

Assuming the Committee's task forces find time to meet during the next few months, and that may be difficult with the Legislature in session, the process of reviewing the input from the public, comparing it with the task forces' work papers and finally, making recommendations to the Governor, should be completed before Spring is over.

Phase III's recommendations to the Governor should result in some Executive action in the near future on some topics, while more serious topics, such as coal, may take longer.

Perhaps sometime in the Summer or Fall of 1979, an education process could be initiated to inform the public via published essays, press releases, etc., of the Governor's anticipated action in specific topic areas. The Committee could then once more send teams of resource people into the field to meet and secure more feedback with an eye to "refining" the recommendations. These meetings could be done on live television, as were some of the public forums in the past, or they could be similar to the Phase II meetings. Final study of the topics leading to action on the Governor's part could well be completed by the end of 1979 or early 1980.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

P U B L I C I T Y

MONTANA'S
FUTURE
A
PUBLIC
DECISION

PUBLICITY

The Coordinator designed a publicity package that would best utilize the minimal time frame and yet reach every community in the state.

A mixed media approach included press releases to the print media, television and radio, as well as special publications; radio public service spots; brochures and flyers in target communities in every county; display ads in the daily newspapers; telephone interviews by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and others to target radio stations; dissemination of questionnaires; and direct contact with numerous clubs and special interest organizations across the state.

Weather conditions hampered some meetings, however, most evidenced good turnouts and moderate to excellent public participation.

Special interest groups, as expected, were out in force. Therefore, a good percentage of the responses were predictable.

The major criticism to be found in the publicity package was that it did not adequately educate the public to the meaning of the meetings or their exact purpose. This was due to two factors: the Committee did not wish, at this time, to publish their working papers on the topics under discussion; and the late hiring of a meeting Coordinator just two and one-half weeks before the first meeting. Coincidental to these facts was the absence of the Governor from the state until the week before the initial meeting.

The state was divided into 12 Balanced Growth Districts. Winter travelling conditions and media coverage areas primarily dictated the makeup of the districts.

One city in each district hosted a meeting at a known public location. All media was regionalized to ensure good reception. The map in the appendix delineates the districts.

Samples of the press releases, the tapes and other publicity material are also included in the appendix.

The entire publicity package cost less than $1,500.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

B U D G E T

MONTANA'S
FUTURE
A
PUBLIC
DECISION

BUDGET

The Governor's Public Meetings on Balanced Growth, sponsored by the Balanced Growth Coordinating Committee, were paid for by the Old West Regional Commission.

$8,500 in Old West funds were made available to the Committee for the 12 meetings held across the state in the first and second weeks of December, 1978.

Final budget figures will not be available for several weeks; however, the following estimates of expenditures are quite close to the expected final figures being compiled by the Office of Budget and Program Planning.

5000 Brochures	$ 300.00
8000 Flyers	236.00
Other printing	100.00
Display Ads	675.00
51 Radio Spots	125.00
Postage & Mailing	150.00
Room	175.00
Board	345.00
Contracted Services	3,575.00
Air Travel	1,780.00
Pilots' Fees	630.00
Other Expenses	409.00
TOTAL	$ 8,500.00

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

APPENDIX

MONTANA'S
FUTURE
A
PUBLIC
DECISION

TASK FORCES

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Robert Hall, Lt. Governor's Office, Chairman
W. Gordon McOmber, Director, Dept. of Agriculture
Robert F. Wambach, Director, Dept. of Fish and Game
Leo Berry, Jr., Commissioner, Dept. of State Lands
James W. Glosser, Administrator, Animal Health Division, Dept. of Livestock
Les Graham, Administrator, Brands Enforcement Division, Dept. of Livestock
Ted J. Doney, Director, Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
Arthur C. Knight, M.D., Director, Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences
Gerald Mueller, Lt. Governor's Office

HUMAN SERVICES

Joan Uda, Governor's Office, Chairperson
Ottis Hill, Governor's Office
Harold A. Fryslie, Director, Dept. of Community Affairs
Arthur C. Knight, M.D., Director, Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences
Lawrence M. Zanto, Director, Dept. of Institutions
Keith L. Colbo, Director, Dept. of Social & Rehabilitation Services
David E. Fuller, Director, Dept. of Labor & Industry

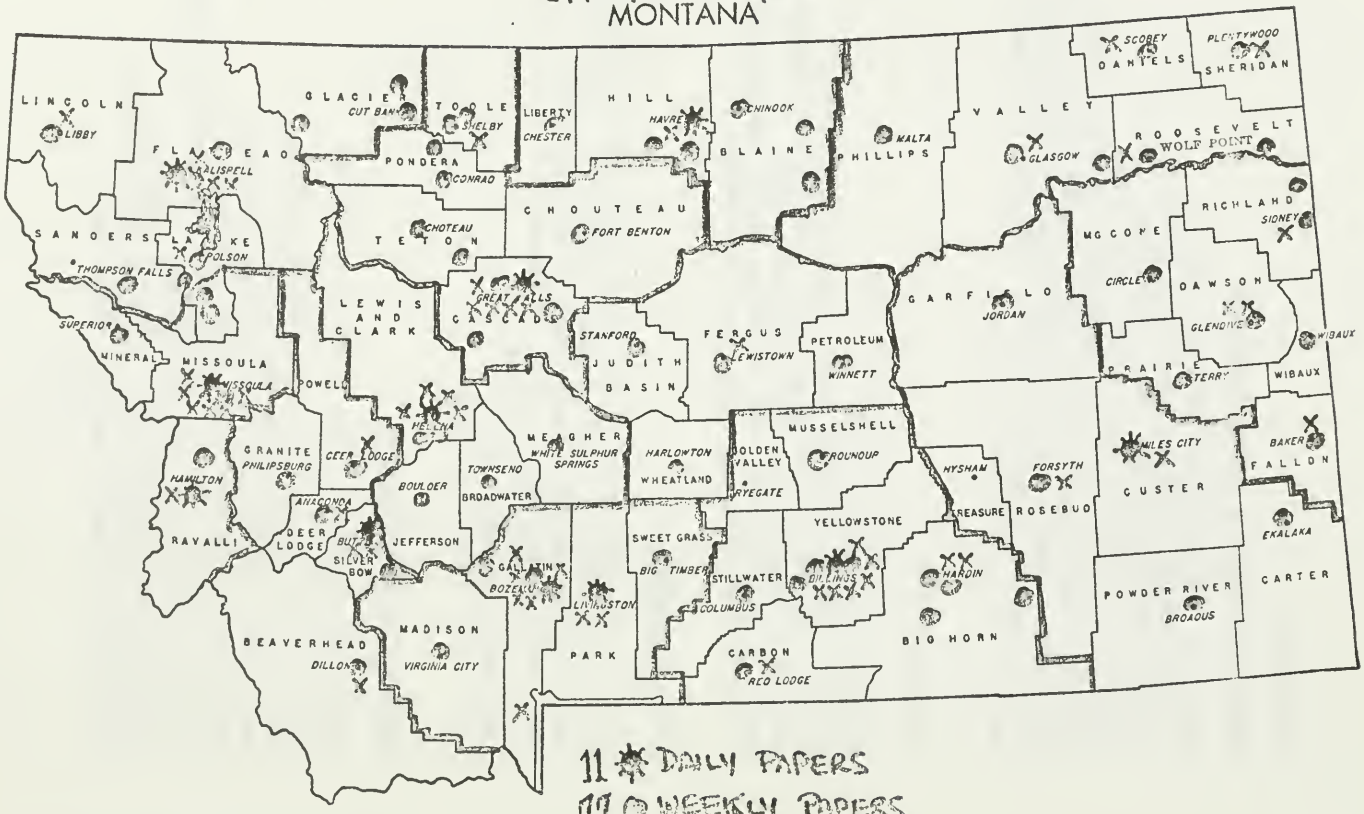
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

George L. Bousliman, Director, Office of Budget & Program Planning, Chairman
David Lewis, Director, Dept. of Administration
John J. Womack, Adjutant General, Dept. of Military Affairs
Laury Lewis, Acting Director, Dept. of Revenue
E. V. "Sonny" Omholt, State Auditor
Mike Greeley, Attorney General
Frank Murray, Secretary of State

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

John Lopach, Director, Office of Commerce, Chairman
Bruce Finnie, Private Sector
Harold Fryslie, Director, Dept. of Community Affairs
Laury Lewis, Acting Director, Dept. of Revenue
David Fuller, Commissioner, Dept. of Labor & Industry
Kent Kleinkopf, Director, Dept. of Business Regulation
Ed Carney, Director, Dept. of Professional & Occupational Licensing
Ron Richards, Director, Dept. of Highways
Gordon Bollinger, Chairman, Public Service Commission
James Howeth, Investment Officer, Dept. of Administration
Gordon McOmber, Director, Dept. of Agriculture

BALANCED GROWTH
MONTANA



11 ✱ DAILY PAPERS
77 ○ WEEKLY PAPERS
57 × RADIO STATIONS

No. 1052 — County Outline Map
STATE PUBLISHING COMPANY
Helena

ase respond to any or all
the questions contained
erein. Your ideas and/or
additional comments are also
solicited at the bottom.

Q U E S T I O N A I R E

M O N T A N A ' S F U T U R E
a public decision

Return to:
Office of the Governor
Captiol Station
Helena, MT 59601

TOPIC AREA: HUMAN SERVICES

1. DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION:
Moving persons in institutions back to their home communities and keeping them in the communities rather than in institutions has been a policy of this administration. Should this continue? Who benefits? Should we emphasize prevention?

2. WELFARE ABUSE:
Cheating the welfare system is a growing concern. Is fraud widespread? It is possible that this abuse exists not only with the welfare recipient, but also with some who provide services. What can we do about abuses?

3. HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT:
Costs of medical assistance for Montana's aged, disabled and poor are rising faster than the rate of general inflation. How should we control these costs? Should control be aimed at the providers or clients of services? What else could be done?

4. WELFARE INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAM:
If certain welfare recipients were required to do public service work to earn their benefits, would you see this as a training opportunity or punishment for being poor? How can a community help these people to become self supporting?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

TOPIC AREA: NATURAL RESOURCES

1. COAL:
"King Coal" is making a comeback. Strong energy development laws now protect Montana's social and natural systems. Do we want in-state conversion of coal to electricity or gas for out-of-state use? Should we encourage the export of coal?

2. EXPANSION OF STATE LAND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITY:
Over 5 million acres of land are held in trust by the State. Should we increase the productivity of that trust source? How can the private sector aid in diversifying the State's agricultural base?

3. ENERGY FORECASTING:
Montana currently relies on energy companies and utilities to forecast our energy needs. Should the State develop a forecasting capability? How should it be funded?

4. FAMILY FARMS VS. ALIEN OWNERSHIP:
Is alien ownership eroding Montana's agricultural base and adversely affecting the family farm? Should aliens be required to report on the extent and usage of their holdings? Should ownership restrictions be imposed? Does alien ownership adequately reflect local concerns in management decisions?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

5,000 brochures were distributed throughout the 12 cities targeted for meetings. The brochures were produced at a cost of 6¢ each and were disseminated by local contact people.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

A PUBLIC MEETING

Sponsored by

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE
FOR BALANCED GROWTH

**OUR STATE
IS GROWING**

**BUT IN WHICH
DIRECTION?**

THE DECISION IS YOURS

This flyer was sent to a contact person in every county seat who distributed it to public meeting places a week before the meetings. This particular flyer advertises the second week of meetings. A similar flyer, displaying the initial six meetings, was also sent to its respective county seats. Where possible, other communities within each county received flyers to ensure that public awareness of these important meetings was maximized.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

A PUBLIC MEETING

Sponsored by

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE
FOR BALANCED GROWTH

OUR STATE IS GROWING

BUT IN WHICH DIRECTION?

THE DECISION IS YOURS

BRING YOUR OPINIONS OR IDEAS
TO ONE OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS
LISTED BELOW

Butte	December 12	Mining & Geology Bldg., MT. TECH
Great Falls	December 12	Auditorium — Vo Tech Center
Havre	December 13	Student Union Bldg., NMC
Lewistown	December 13	Yogo Inn
Bozeman	December 14	Holiday Inn
Billings	December 14	New Senior Citizens Center

All meetings will begin at 7:30 PM

SPEAK UP
MONTANA'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Display ads were published in each of the dailies the day before the meetings.

The ad was published in the target city weekly if no daily was available.

MONTANA'S FUTURE A PUBLIC DECISION

A PUBLIC MEETING

Sponsored by

THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE
FOR BALANCED GROWTH

OUR STATE
IS GROWING

BUT IN WHICH
DIRECTION?

THE DECISION IS YOURS

Bring Your Opinions Or Ideas
To The Public Meeting In....

MILES CITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:30 P.M.

At The

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SPEAK UP
MONTANA'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

News Release

GOVERNOR THOMAS L. JUDGE • STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • (406) 449-3111

Press Release #1
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21, 1978

(Sent to all TV, Radio station and newspapers in Montana.)

Public meetings to gather citizen information and suggestions on the concept of balanced growth will be held in 12 Montana cities next month, according to an announcement today from Lieutenant Governor Ted Schwinden.

The meetings will be sponsored by the Governor's Committee for Balanced Growth, chaired by Schwinden and Ray Dore, Executive Assistant to Governor Thomas L. Judge. Meetings will be held December 5 in Helena and Glasgow, December 6 in Kalispell and Glendive, December 7 in Missoula and Miles City, December 12 in Great Falls and Lewistown, December 13 in Havre and Butte, and December 14 in Billings and Bozeman.

The Governor's Committee for Balanced Growth was designed to develop ideas for improving Montana's economy without sacrificing the state's lifestyle or environmental standards. The public meetings scheduled for December will highlight the four major topic areas of the Committee, involving energy, environment and natural resources; urban and rural development; human services; and government in general. Among several widely-varying subjects to be discussed are the financing of economic development, business licensing procedures, welfare provider-user abuse, health care costs, foreign ownership of farm lands, and whether or not a ceiling should be established on state government spending.

Comments and suggestions from citizens attending the public meetings will be used by Governor Judge in legislative recommendations and in executive decisions.

Persons wanting further information are asked to write the Governor's office or to phone the Citizens' Advocate toll-free number, 1-800-332-2272.

ews Release

VERNOR THOMAS L. JUDGE • STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • (406) 449-3111

Press Release #2
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Sent to all newspapers, radio stations, television stations and special publications across the state.)

Subjects of special interest to Montanans, including environmental protection standards, coal development, welfare work programs, health care costs, and consideration of ceilings on state government spending, will be on the agenda of a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 7, in Missoula.

The Missoula meeting, one of 12 similar meetings being held throughout Montana during December, will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Missoula County Courthouse, according to an announcement today from the Office of Lieutenant Governor Ted Schwinden.

Sponsored by the Governor's Committee for Balanced Growth, the meeting is designed to gather citizen information on the concept of balanced growth. Comments and suggestions from citizens attending the meetings will be used by Governor Judge in his recommendations to the Montana Legislature and in making executive decisions, according to Lieutenant Governor Ted Schwinden. Schwinden and Ray Dore, Executive Assistant to Governor Judge, are co-chairmen of the Committee.

The Governor's Committee for Balanced Growth was designed to develop ideas for improving Montana's economy without an accompanying degradation of either environmental standards or preferred lifestyle. The four major topic areas of the Committee involve energy, environment and natural resources; urban and rural development; human services; and government in general. The Governor has called the balanced growth concept "the most important policy in state government, because it will in large measure determine the future of the state.

News Release #1

GOVERNOR THOMAS L. JUDGE • STATE CAPITOL • HELENA, MONTANA 59601 • (406) 449-3111

SENT 1/29 TO 11 DAILIES & 76 WEEKLIES

FEATURE STORY ON BALANCED GROWTH MEETING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The importance of developing a state balanced growth policy has been recognized by Governor Judge. Early in 1978, the Governor established a cabinet level "Committee for Balanced Growth," co-chaired by Lieutenant Governor Ted Schwinden and Executive Assistant Ray Dore, and divided into four task forces each chaired by a member of the overall committee.

The Governor charged this committee and its task forces with the mission of providing a mechanism for policy formulation, and a mechanism for focusing the state's planning and legislative efforts so that our Montana quality of life could be maintained and our future prosperity insured.

Four major topic areas highlight the Committee's work: Energy, environment and natural resources; urban/rural development; human services; and general government. In these major areas, according to Judge's charge to the committee, a growth policy must be developed that will stimulate economic opportunities and provide jobs as well as protect the special life-quality Montana citizens have strongly indicated they want to maintain. That lifestyle depends, ultimately, on the maintenance of proper environmental standards in air and water quality and land use as well as on adequate economic opportunities.

In addition to structuring economic development that will not threaten to degrad the Montana environment, the balanced growth policy seeks to diversify and stabilize Montana's predominantly resource based economy so that the jobs and security of Montana workers can be independent of the influence of any one economic sector.

Without de-emphasizing the importance of the state's traditional agricultural, wood products and mining industries, the committee is mandated to determine what other forms of primary industry are feasible for development.

In establishing this administration's goal for balanced growth and economic development, Governor Judge has stated that the necessary mechanisms must be found that will harmonize the demands of the various forces and special interest groups in Montana society. And, when he announced the creation of the balanced growth effort, the Governor stipulated that the process of policy formulation must be "open" -- must include a large measure of public input. The Governor said, "Each task force is expected to look to the public as the source of its ideas while also serving as the forum in which ideas are tested."

Working from the premise that Montana's future is a public decision, the balanced growth committee is sponsoring public meetings in 12 Montana cities during December. Residents are being asked to present their opinions and ideas to task force members at the meetings. The schedule calls for community meetings in Helena, Glasgow, Kalispell, Glendive, Missoula, Miles City, Great Falls, Butte, Havre, Lewistown, Billings, and Bozeman. The meetings will be held from December 5 through the 14, and persons wanting additional information are advised to call the Citizens' Advocate toll-free number, 1-800-332-2272.

Meeting times and places are being announced in the individual cities. Included in specific topics to be addressed in the meetings are such subjects as loan guarantee programs for small businesses, sources of equity capital, where the state's responsibility begins and ends in economic development activities, control of health care costs, welfare abuse on the part of recipients as well as providers, diversifications of the state's agricultural base, energy forecasting capability, and state government spending limits.

"BALANCED GROWTH"
30-second spot
RADIO
CONTACT: JOHN BARRETT

This public service spot was sent to 51 radio stations across Montana 10 days in advance of each particular meeting. The 12 meeting sites were promoted individually. Lt. Governor Ted Schwinden taped the spots in the Governor's absence.

" THIS IS LT. GOVERNOR TED SCHWINDEN. THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE FOR BALANCED GROWTH IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN IMPROVE MONTANA'S ECONOMY -- PROVIDE NEW JOBS AND ENCOURAGE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT -- WITHOUT SACRIFICING OUR UNIQUE LIFESTYLE AND ENVIRONMENT. MONTANA'S FUTURE IS YOUR CONCERN. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS -- YOUR HELP."

"TAG"

" JOIN US AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN (city) ON (day), DECEMBER (date), AT 7:30 PM AT THE (location).

###

TOPIC AREA: URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT

STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:
Jobs? Growth? Erosion of tax base? Population decline? Where is the State needed? Where does State responsibility end and local responsibility begin?

BUSINESS LICENSING PROCEDURES:
More than 100 separate categories of business licenses and permits are administered by the state and are renewed at various times of the year, requiring numerous inspections and special forms. Should these processes be streamlined if possible? Simplified?

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOV'TS:
What forms of local government training and information programs from the state are needed? Where should state government concentrate its resources?

FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
What new or expanded forms of government-assisted financing are needed? Loan guarantee programs for small businesses? Sources of equity capital? Direct loans? What are the priorities of local governments and businesses?

)DITIONAL COMMENTS:

TOPIC AREA: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING LIMITATION:
Should a ceiling be placed on State Government spending? Should a fixed limit be set or should the limit reflect current economic conditions?

2. EXECUTIVE SUNSET PROCEDURES:
Sunset procedures require legislative review of existing agencies on a regular basis to see if they have outlived their usefulness. Should the Executive Branch of government implement its own Sunset process or should it be left solely in the hands of the Legislature?

3. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:
Sovereign Immunity protects governments from prosecution for wrongs done to persons or property. State Government currently does not have immunity, except upon a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Should the government, as the people's representative, be given some immunity in specific cases? In which cases? Should legislation be enacted?

4. CITIZEN INFORMATION CENTER:
In what ways can government make itself more accessible to Montanans? Should the Citizen's Advocate number and the State Information Assistance number be distributed widely throughout Montana, including being listed in every telephone directory in the State? Would a special State Government Telephone Directory be valuable if disseminated across Montana?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: